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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 56

April 2010

Number 2

Spring 2010 Meeting at Winston-Salem, NC

Ron Clark and Lucy Quintilliano



You won't want to miss our spring meeting in Winston-Salem. Although our base of operation is in the Piedmont, we will have full-day field trips to the Blue Ridge Parkway for those who can't resist the mountains during spring migration. Other full-day trips will explore New River State Park and Hanging Rock State Park and the surrounding areas. If you prefer birding at close-by venues in beautiful city parks surrounded by historic structures, flower gardens, wildflowers and century-old trees, sign up for one of several half-day options. Our local CBC members and our friends from The Audubon Society of Forsyth County will take us to their favorite rural birding hot spots outside of town where the habitat is much different than the wooded parks and greenways around town. For a change of pace, spend an afternoon at a local winery enjoying a gourmet lunch, local wines, and grounds featuring wildflowers and butterflies. There is clearly something for everyone!

All field trips except the winery tour are limited to 15 participants, so register early to get your choice of outings. Be sure to indicate your first and second choices on your registration form.

For those wanting to check out Old Salem or one of the many other attractions in the Winston-Salem area, the hotel will provide brochures and directions for your convenience.

Join fellow CBC members Friday evening for a ban-

quet at our host hotel. We will have a great selection of menu items including vegetarian options. The price is \$20/person (including tax and gratuity), and sign-up is included on the registration form. After dinner, John Sill, nationally acclaimed wildlife artist, illustrator and author, will tell us about his birding adventures as he teaches us how to draw a bird. You may think you are not artistic, but he has refined his teaching method to work even on those of us with zero talent. Read more about him at www.johnsill.com.

Saturday evening The Audubon Society of Forsyth County will host a reception at our hotel. While enjoying light snacks and desserts, we will have a free-form and free-wheeling event called "The Well Equipped Birder". Come see what fellow CBC members have and use to optimize their birding experience. See the latest and greatest equipment and gear, including binoculars, scopes, tripods, cameras, digiscoping, iPods/Birdjam, iTouch/iPhone, books, DVDs/CDs, software and who knows what else. If you have something you think is great, bring it to "show and tell". We will set up like an expo – no program or presentations, just one-on-one conversations between fellow birders.

Our headquarters will be The Village Inn at exit 184 off I-40, Lewisville-Clemmons Rd. Directions are available on the hotel's website, www.thevillageinn.com. The hotel is centrally located for our field trips

(Continued on page 7)

Winston-Salem Meeting Field Trip Schedule

Ron Clark and Lucy Quintilliano



Friday, April 30

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 1 – Tanglewood Park & Arboretum – 7:45 AM
- Trip 2 – Reynolda Gardens – 7:15 AM
- Trip 3 – Historic Bethabara Park – 7:00 AM
- Trip 4 – Washington Park & Salem Creek Greenway – 7:30 AM
- Trip 5 – Miller Park & Archie Elledge Treatment Plant – 7:15 AM
- Trip 6 – Muddy Creek Greenway – 7:30 AM

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 7 – Tanglewood Park & Arboretum – 1:00 PM
- Trip 8 – Reynolda Gardens – 12:45 PM
- Trip 9 – Historic Bethabara Park – 12:45 PM
- Trip 10 – Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway & Salem Lake – 12:45 PM
- Trip 11 – Dinkin's Bottom Road – 1:00 PM
- Trip 12 – Sander's Ridge Vineyard & Big Woods Restaurant – 12:45 PM

All Day Trips

- Trip 13 – Blue Ridge Parkway Butterflies, Wildflowers & Birds – 7:00 AM
- Trip 14 – Stone Mountain SP, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park – 7:15 AM
- Trip 15 – Hanging Rock State Park & Surrounding Area – 7:30 AM
- Trip 16 – New River State Park – 6:45 AM

Saturday, May 1

Morning Half-Day Trips

- Trip 17 – Tanglewood Park & Arboretum – 7:45 AM
- Trip 18 – Reynolda Gardens – 7:15 AM
- Trip 19 – Historic Bethabara Park – 7:00 AM
- Trip 20 – Civitan Park, Salem Creek Greenway & Salem Lake – 7:00 AM
- Trip 21 – Dinkin's Bottom Road – 7:15 AM
- Trip 22 – Muddy Creek Greenway – 7:30 AM

Afternoon Half-Day Trips

- Trip 23 – Tanglewood Park & Arboretum – 1:00 PM
- Trip 24 – Reynolda Gardens – 12:45 PM
- Trip 25 – Historic Bethabara Park – 12:45 PM
- Trip 26 – Washington Park & Salem Creek Greenway – 1:00 PM
- Trip 27 – Miller Park and Archie Elledge Treatment Plant – 12:45 PM
- Trip 28 – Sander's Ridge Vineyard & Big Woods Restaurant – 12:45 PM

All Day Trips

- Trip 29 – Blue Ridge Parkway South – 7:00 AM
- Trip 30 – Stone Mountain SP, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park – 7:15 AM
- Trip 31 – Hanging Rock State Park and Surrounding Area – 7:30 AM
- Trip 32 – New River State Park – 6:45 AM

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

Trips 1, 7, 17, & 23: Tanglewood Park & Arboretum (half-day)

(NC Birding Trail: NW Piedmont Group – Site 5)

This beautiful 1200-acre park along the Yadkin River is just minutes from our hotel. Because of the park's size and diversity of habitat, we will be "car birding" as well as hiking on trails and service roads. This will enable us to cover the gamut, including pastures, oak forest, mixed hardwoods/pine forest, early successional habitat, mesic forest areas and the wetlands viewing platform. We'll "power bird" as we drive by the golf course, the cemetery, the horse track, stables

and picnic areas. The diversity of habitat means we should see a wide variety of birds. Watch for Red-headed and Pileated Woodpeckers, Wood Ducks, Cliff Swallows, and nesting Baltimore Orioles. Expect Indigo Buntings, Green Heron, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Grosbeak and several species of warblers including nesting Prothonotaries. Whether you're a master gardener or just love plants in general, you'll appreciate the arboretum and the state record white oak and black walnut trees near the manor house. The trails are well maintained and fairly easy walking. There is a \$2 per

(Continued on page 3)

car entrance fee. Restrooms are available.

**Trips 2, 8, 18, 24: Reynolda Gardens
(half-day with all day option)**

(NCBT: NW Piedmont Group – Site 3)

The grounds and trails around the former R. J. Reynolds estate are in the heart of Winston-Salem adjacent to and owned by Wake Forest University. This is known by the locals to be the best birding destination in town. Every warbler, thrush and vireo on the county list has been observed here. You know you're in a good place when one of the trails is called "Warbler Lane". Prepare for this field trip by doing your neck exercises, or be prepared for severe "warbler neck". The sun reaches the abundant tall trees early, and five species in one tree can be expected during migration. Thrushes and tanagers abound along the creek. We should see Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, and Black-billed Cuckoos are a possibility. If you're not a hard-core birder or just want to give your neck some time off, this field trip will provide some alternatives for an enjoyable outing. The grounds include formal gardens, a plant shop and the Reynolda House Museum of Art. The adjacent Reynolda Village has several shops and restaurants. *If you want to see the birds, enjoy lunch at one of the restaurants and check out the gardens, plant shop and museum, sign up for a morning trip and stay all day. Just let the leader know and drive separately or carpool with someone whose schedule coincides with yours.* There is a \$10 fee for the Reynolda House Museum of Art and for house tours. Restrooms are available.

**Trips 3, 9, 19, 25: Historic Bethabara Park
(half-day)**

(NCBT: NW Piedmont Group – Site 4)

This unique setting for a field trip is a National Historic Landmark. Nearly 250 years ago a small group of Moravians settled here, and what a beautiful spot they chose. We can stroll through the original village with its palisade fence and numerous archeological excavations, but our primary focus will be the 20-mile system of nature trails that traverse a wildlife preserve that includes a wetlands area with a boardwalk. Spring brings vireos, Blue Grosbeaks, a variety of warblers and both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers. Nesting species include Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Brown Thrashers and Wood

Thrush. Imagine the Wood Thrush song echoing through the woods as you focus your binoculars on an Ovenbird or Northern Parula, or try to figure out which *Empidonax* you're looking at. If you keep a "critter list", you might log an otter, mink, woodchuck or fox. For those with more balanced interests (i.e. not obsessed with birds) the Visitor Center offers a video about the settlement history, and the museum features a restored and furnished 1788 church, archaeological ruins, exhibits and tours with costumed guides, a reconstructed village, a French and Indian War fort and colonial and medical gardens. The Visitor Center opens at 10:30 a.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, so sign up for the afternoon trip if this is your primary interest. Restrooms are not available Saturday morning when the Visitor Center is closed.

**Trips 4, 26: Washington Park and Salem Creek
Greenway (half-day)**

Washington Park is the largest neighborhood park in Winston-Salem and encompasses athletic fields, a dog park, a section of Salem Creek Greenway and trails through vast natural areas. Our friends from Audubon Society of Forsyth County have shown us where to find the birds in this maze. If you know where to go (and we do) this park provides an excellent place to inventory the migration. Driving or walking around the "upper park" is a good spot for Blackburnian, Bay-breasted, Blue-winged and Hooded Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, Blue-headed Vireos, all five thrushes – just about anything can show up here. The trail along the creek can be good for Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chat and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and maybe Acadian and Willow Flycatchers. Be prepared to walk on sidewalks and trails that are somewhat hilly, but not too strenuous. There is a Port-A-John at Washington Park.

**Trips 5, 27: Miller Park & Archie Elledge
Treatment Plant (half-day)**

(NCBT: NW Piedmont Group – Site 2)

We will combine two venues for a nice variety of birds. Miller Park is right in town and popular with birders and non-birders alike. The activity at the playgrounds, ball fields, tennis courts, picnic shelters and community center doesn't seem to bother the birds in the adjacent woods. The compact network of paved trails provides close views of birds in a mix of hardwoods and pine in bottomland, slope and upland habi-

(Continued on page 4)

Spring Meeting Field Trip Descriptions

(continued from page 3)

tat. Thrushes hop across the paths, and flycatchers, vireos, warblers, tanagers and orioles flit about the trees. There is a good chance of seeing nesting Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Barred Owls, Cooper's and Red-shouldered Hawks. Miller Park is so birdy that The Audubon Society of Forsyth County chose it to sponsor in the Adopt-a-Park program. A short drive will take us to a very different habitat at Archie Elledge Sewage Treatment Plant. The Tufted Duck is long gone, but the fields and brush attract Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, and Song and Field Sparrows. We hope to see the Common Ravens that nest nearby. No promises, but Lincoln's Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbird are a possibility. Restrooms are available at Miller Park but not at the treatment plant.

Trips 6, 22: Muddy Creek Greenway (half-day)

This park is managed jointly by Winston-Salem and the Forsyth County parks departments and is just beyond the western limits of town. A paved path provides easy walking as it follows Muddy Creek several miles through horse pastures, soybean fields, scrub growth and woodlands. It is located just off Meadowlark Road, so you can visualize the habitat. We will search for breeding birds such as White-eyed Vireo, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Grasshopper Sparrow and Blue Grosbeak. A Port-A-John is available.

Trips 10, 20: Civitan Park, Salem Creek

Greenway and Salem Lake (half-day)

(NCBT: NW Piedmont Group – Site 1)

Civitan Park and the Salem Creek Greenway comprise a restoration area with a greenway that runs parallel to and between a five-acre wetland and Salem Creek. This small city park is adjacent to Winston-Salem State University and is home to such species as Green Heron, Yellow Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Red-winged Blackbird and Orchard Oriole. It is the only known nesting site in the county for Willow Flycatchers and Warbling Vireos. This park also has a nice variety of wildflowers. If time permits, we will swing by Salem Lake, a 365-acre reservoir that is Forsyth County's largest body of water, to look for lingering waterfowl. An unpaved trail encircles the entire lake. A few minutes here could net a few more songbird species since

the shore is wooded and attracts migrants. Restrooms at Salem Lake marina.

Trips 11, 21: Dinkin's Bottom Road (half-day)

This favorite spot of local birders is Yadkin River bottomland with corn and soybean fields, early successional habitat and a shallow pond. Just twenty minutes from our hotel, this is a nice compliment to our field trips to urban parks with woodlands and gardens. Expect a very different experience here. It is good for Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow and black-birds. Prothonotary Warblers nest here, and there is a Great Blue Heron rookery. Get your camera ready! No restrooms available.

Trips 12, 28: Sander's Ridge Vineyard and Big Woods Restaurant (half-day)

This 17-acre vineyard, restaurant and natural area is set in the Yadkin County countryside where the land has been in the same family for five generations. This outing is ideal for birders and non-birders alike. The grounds are known for the butterflies and wildflowers as well as birds. Take a winery tour where the staff will guide you through the process of wine production. You can also refine your palate by participating in a wine-tasting session. The Big Woods Restaurant serves an excellent lunch in a beautiful setting from noon until 2:00 so if you want a change from our typical field trip fast-food fare, your first stop will be at the restaurant. We suggest carpooling for the half-hour drive, and we'll need designated drivers for this field trip.

Trip 13: Blue Ridge Parkway Butterflies, Wildflowers & Birds (all day)

Our leader for this trip will be focusing on butterflies and wildflowers as well as the birds listed in the following description. Our route is along NC Hwy 21 up the escarpment through Roaring Gap to the Blue Ridge Parkway. A stop at Little Glade Mill Pond at milepost 230 should yield tanagers, orioles and warblers in the hardwoods on either side of the parkway. The next stop is Mahogany Rock where hummingbirds, Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Common

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat are sometimes found. Grassy fields at the Bluffs Lodge sometimes harbor Grasshopper Sparrows and Horned Larks. If time permits, we will stop at Basin Creek at the south side of Doughton Park and look for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, waterthrushes, redstarts, thrushes and Acadian Flycatchers. The fields along Longbottom Road are good for hawks, Wild Turkey, Eastern Kingbird and Tree Swallow. In addition to all these birds, your leader will hone in on the abundant butterflies and wildflowers along the way. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. There are restrooms at Doughton Park and limited toilet facilities elsewhere.

Trip 29: Blue Ridge Parkway South (all day)

This trip is identical to **Trip 13** but without the focus on butterflies and wildflowers. Although the leader will be concentrating on finding birds, there will undoubtedly be others in the group who will recognize and identify the butterflies and flowers. The route is along NC Hwy 21 up the escarpment through Roaring Gap to the Blue Ridge Parkway. A stop at Little Glade Mill Pond at milepost 230 should yield tanagers, orioles and warblers in the hardwoods on either side of the parkway. The next stop is Mahogany Rock where hummingbirds, Indigo Bunting, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green and Black-throated Blue Warblers, Common Yellowthroat and Yellow-breasted Chat are sometimes found. Grassy fields at the Bluffs Lodge sometimes harbor Grasshopper Sparrows and Horned Larks. If time permits, we will stop at Basin Creek at the south side of Doughton Park and look for Hooded and Worm-eating Warblers, waterthrushes, redstarts, thrushes and Acadian Flycatcher. The fields along Longbottom Road are good for hawks, Wild Turkey, Eastern Kingbird and Tree Swallows. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. There are restrooms at Doughton Park and limited toilet facilities elsewhere.

Trips 14, 30: Stone Mountain SP, Blue Ridge Parkway, Doughton Park (all day)

This trip takes us to four NC Important Bird Areas, giving us opportunities for a long list of species. First we'll cruise through Stone Mountain State Park, with brief stops for warblers. Louisiana Waterthrush and Swainson's Warbler are possibilities here. Next we'll pass through Wilkes County fields where we will

watch for Wild Turkey and Tree Swallows. From there, our route will take us along Long Bottom Road where we will stop to bird Basin Creek for Acadian Flycatchers and several species of warblers, including Northern Parula, Louisiana and Northern Waterthrush, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Yellow-throated, Black and White, Worm-eating and American Redstart. After ascending the escarpment on Hwy 18, we'll take the Parkway north to the upper end of Doughton Park, stopping at overlooks, including our fourth IBA, Mahogany Rock, for Common Ravens, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, Chestnut-sided Warblers and possibly Red-breasted Nuthatches. On our return to Winston-Salem along Hwy 21 through Roaring Gap, we'll make a brief stop to check the lakes for Wood Ducks and late migrant waterfowl. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available at Doughton Park and at convenience stores and gas stations along the route.

Trips 15, 31: Hanging Rock State Park & Surrounding Area (all day)

(NCBT: NW Piedmont Group – Site 7)

Hanging Rock State Park offers sheer cliffs and peaks of bare rock, quiet forests and cascading waterfalls, and views of the piedmont plateau that stretch for miles. Peregrine Falcon and Common Raven can be seen performing aerial acrobatics during courtship. Listen for Black-throated Green Warblers, Worm-eating Warblers and Hooded Warblers along any number of the trails including the short trails to the five waterfalls in the park. The mountain laurel and rhododendron make this area especially beautiful in the spring. Although there are several strenuous trails in the park, we will be on trails that are moderate to easy. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available in the park.

Trips 16, 32: New River State Park (all day)

This park, which is a 90-minute drive from our hotel, is a NC Important Bird Area. Rugged hillsides, pastoral meadows and farmlands surround what is believed to be one of the oldest rivers in North America – the New River. We will visit two of the three areas in the State Park, plus bird along beautiful stretches of the river where we could well see Black-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatchers, Golden-winged Warblers, Baltimore Orioles and more. Bring snacks, water and lunch for this full day outing. Restrooms are available at two locations in the park.

Essential Planning Notes for the Winston-Salem Meeting

• All field trips except the winery tour have a limit of 15 participants. Status of the field trips will be posted on www.carolinabirdclub.org. However, the status could change by the time your registration is processed, so be sure to indicate your second choices and check the list when you arrive at the hotel to see which trips you are on. If your first and second choice trips are full, you will be contacted to make another selection.

• Plan to bring water, snacks and lunch for the all day trips since there will probably not be food available along the route. There are several fast food restaurants and a Subway near the hotel so you can purchase takeout for lunch the night before.

• Water and snacks are a good idea for the half-day field trips. The schedule is tight so you may want to have a cooler with lunch in your room as an alternative to the fast

food available nearby. Some rooms have refrigerators, and there are some portable refrigerators available on a first come first serve basis for the other rooms.

• All trips will leave from the hotel at the times indicated on the schedule. If you prefer to meet the group at the site, be sure to inform the leader and make a notation on the field trip attendee list so the leader will not be looking for you at the hotel.

• **Sunday, April 25 is the last date you can cancel and receive a refund of your registration fee and banquet charge. Contact information for the Headquarters Secretary is on page 10 of this newsletter. If you have to cancel after the refund cutoff date, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list.**

CBC Spring Meeting Registration Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening phone _____

Email _____

Spring 2010 Meeting

Meeting Registration (Member) _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Meeting Registration (Non-member) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

Friday Buffet Dinner (each) _____ x \$20 = \$ _____

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

*To pre-register for field trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes above.

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip. Meeting registration at the door costs \$30.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to: CBC, 353 Montabello, Bloomingdale, IL 60108

☐ Please update my address or other contact information as listed above

Dues Increase Passes at Winter Meeting

A quorum of the membership approved a motion by the Executive Committee to increase yearly dues in some membership categories.

Here is the new dues schedule as approved:

- Individual or non-profit: \$25
- Associate (in household with individual): \$5
- Student: \$15
- Sustaining (open to businesses): \$30
- Life Membership: \$400
- Associate Life Membership: \$100



The opinions expressed in the CBC Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Carolina Bird Club or its members, but are those of the authors who have contributed material. All CBC members are encouraged to submit content for publication. Submitted articles may be edited for style, content, or length prior to publication. Submissions may be made in electronic format to newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org, or by mail to the address on the back cover.

Spring 2010 Meeting

(Continued from page 1)

and was totally renovated just three years ago. The special CBC room rate, double or single, is \$74 plus tax, which includes a full hot breakfast starting at 6:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday and 6:30 a.m. Sunday. Call 800-554-6416 or 336-766-9121 to book your room. **The reservation deadline is April 5th.** Rooms and rates cannot be guaranteed after this date, so be sure to reserve before the deadline. Note - *there are no elevators in this two-story hotel, so reserve early if you need a first floor room.* And don't wait to register for the meeting if you want to get your choice of field trips.

See you in Winston-Salem!

Read The Chat and the Newsletter anywhere you have Internet access!

The most recent editions of the Newsletter and The Chat are online on the CBC website. Older editions of The Chat are free for anyone to download, but the CBC Newsletter and the two most recent calendar years of The Chat are available only to CBC members. All CBC members will use the same username and password to access these publications. The username is "**member**" and the password is "**birdfun**".

This is a membership benefit, please don't share the password with non-members! The password will be changed from time to time, but can always be found in the most recent print edition of the Newsletter.

Go to <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/newsletter> to access the Newsletter, and <http://www.carolinabirdclub.org/chat> to access The Chat.



Want to Design the Next CBC Shirt?

If you've ever wanted to design haute couture, here is your chance!

Inventories for CBC sweatshirts and T-shirts are low, and more of these popular (and stylish!) items will need to be ordered soon.

The Executive Committee is inviting interested persons to submit new designs for these items by May 31, 2010. The Committee will judge the top three designs and present them to the membership to determine the top choice at the Fall 2010 Meeting.

Send your submission to the Lakepark Drive address on page 10, or electronically to: newsletter@carolinabirdclub.org



CBC Bonus Trip: A Taste of Arizona!



Most discussions of the best birding locations in the United States eventually include Southeastern Arizona. The diversity of habitats, stunning natural beauty, easy travel conditions, and promise of dozens of types of birds found nowhere else, or nowhere more easily, in the United States speaks to why a trip to Arizona is at the top of many traveling birder's wish lists.

The CBC is pleased to announce a bonus trip to Southeastern Arizona **May 28th to June 2nd, 2010**. We will focus on finding and observing breeding birds and late migrants in the "sky island" mountain ranges of the Santa Ritas and Huachucas and the surrounding desert, visiting locations such as Madera Canyon, Patagonia, Garden Canyon, Scheelite Canyon, Sawmill Canyon, Ramsey Canyon, Miller Canyon, and Saguaro National Park.

While many trips to Arizona occur at the onset of the summer monsoons, in late July or August, to take advantage of hummingbird migration and late-season breeders, a trip in late May/early June arguably provides a better opportunity to find and enjoy many of the species of birds that make Arizona famous. Elegant Trogans should be visible and vocal as they patrol territories, Elf Owls peer from nesting cavities at dusk, and many flycatchers are just arriving and are conspicuous as they search for mates and begin nesting. Plumages are fresh and birds are singing, often in numbers greater than those found later in the season.

We'll visit the saguaro studded desert for Rufous-winged Sparrow, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, rattlesnakes and maybe even a Gila Monster, before heading to the mountains. With one night near majestic Madera Canyon and two nights in Sierra Vista, just minutes from Ramsey, Miller, Garden, and Sawmill Canyons, we will take advantage of the long hours of daylight to see as many of the sights, sounds, and of course birds, as possible.

This trip begins and ends in Tucson, Arizona. Included in the **trip fee of \$775** is lodging (double occupancy), transportation, entry fees, and guided birding each day. Not included is transportation to and from Tucson, meals, and items of personal nature. A de-

posit of \$300 is due by March 15, 2010 with the balance due by April 14, 2010. Contact Steve Shultz for information on single supplements.

Interested? Act soon, as the **number of participants is limited to ten** (with a minimum of eight). This will ensure that everyone enjoys a window seat in the vehicles with plenty of room to enjoy the views as we travel from desert to grassland to mountaintop.

Detailed information including lodging details, bird check lists, and a day-by-day summary of activities will be provided upon registration, but an overview of the schedule is listed below:

Friday - arrival in Tucson. Depending on arrival time, birding at Saguaro National Park or optional excursion for Common Black-Hawk. Overnight in Tucson.

Saturday - Madera Canyon and grasslands. Overnight in Green Valley (probability of nesting Elf Owls in Madera).

Sunday - Madera Canyon, Nogales, Patagonia. Overnight in Sierra Vista.

Monday - Garden, Scheelite, and Sawmill Canyons. Overnight in Sierra Vista.

Tuesday - Ramsey Canyon Preserve, Miller Canyon, Mary Jo Ballator's B&B (hummers and desert species). Overnight in Tucson. Dusk drive for snakes and reptiles.

Wednesday - Saguaro National Park. (plan for departing flights no earlier than 1 p.m.)

Trip leaders for "A Taste of Arizona!" will be **Steve Shultz** and **Brian Pendergraft**, who have each made several trips to the locations we will visit and look forward to sharing them with you.

To reserve your space on this trip, or for more information, contact Steve Shultz at sshultz@nc.rr.com or (919) 779-2826.

Ventures Offers Special CBC trip to Churchill and Southern Manitoba July 2-10, 2010 with Prairie Extension July 10-12

Leader: Simon Thompson

Churchill, a small town on the Hudson Bay in Manitoba, Canada, started out as a fur-trapping and trading company in the early 1700's, and grew into a small port when the railway came through in 1929. Nowadays Churchill has become famous among birders for its combination of spectacular migration of birds towards the Arctic and because of easy accessibility to the northern breeding species.

A visit to the bleak tundra of Churchill will be a highlight of our visit to Canada, but there's much more to offer the visitor. Here too are wide-open prairies, a vast wilderness of mountains and lakes and bird-rich wetlands. Our visit will coincide with the peak of migration, and we should see many birds passing through on their way further north. These should include Hudsonian Godwit and Red-necked Phalarope and the beautiful Little Gull. Ross' Gull has become difficult to see over the past few years, but we still have a very good chance to see one. The birding here is unforgettable, and this variety of habitats from Arctic waters to boreal forests and seemingly endless prairies will give us a chance to see an excellent of northern and boreal species in this spell of Arctic springtime.

Please contact the Ventures office to register. Your place on this Venture will be reserved as soon as a deposit of \$200 payable to Ventures, Inc. has been received. You can pay by check or call the office with your VISA or MasterCard #. This Venture is limited to 10 participants.



Cost of Manitoba Venture

\$TBA per person from Winnipeg, based on double occupancy. 3 Day prairie Extension: \$TBA (Single supplement \$TBA)

Price includes: All accommodations, internal air, van, boat and train transportation, all meals, service charges, entrance fees & gratuities (except for leader/guide), information packet & bird check-list, leader/guide service.

Not included: Air travel to Winnipeg, alcoholic beverages, laundry, and any other items of a personal nature.

What birds can we hope to see?

Great Gray & Short-eared Owls, Ross's, Sabine's, Little & Thayer's Gulls, Parasitic, Long-tailed & Pomarine Jaegers, Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper, Spruce Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Red & Red-necked Phalaropes, Connecticut & Mourning Warblers, Mountain Bluebird, Boreal Chickadee, Pine Grosbeak, LeConte's & Harris's Sparrows, Snow Bunting.

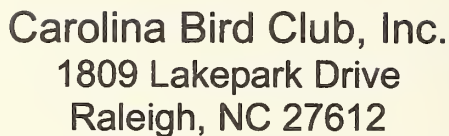
(A full birdlist will be sent out upon registration)

Ventures, Inc.

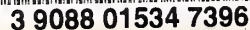
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Submission deadlines are due the 1st of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

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The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937 the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, \$25; Associate (in household with individual), \$5; Student, \$15; Patron, \$50 and up; Sustaining & businesses, \$30; Life, \$400; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), \$100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments).

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